



YOU bring
Miracles to Uganda



Healing and Hope

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

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Miracles come in all forms.

For our Mission Doctors serving in rural Uganda, East Africa, miracles can come in little bottles and large life-saving machines.

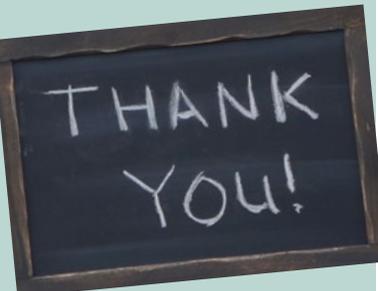
Little Bruno, a six year old that Dr. Lou Coda had previously seen, was suffering from constipation, and his discomfort was so severe that his mother did not even bring him to the hospital. Because of your support, Mission Doctor Lou Coda was there and immediately handed Bruno's mom a giant bottle of MiraLAX. A simple over the counter medication here in the United States brought healing to a young child in need, and a smile to his

mother's face.

Some miracles are as simple as a doctor remembering to bring along a bottle of laxatives, and other miracles like the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes require the love and sharing of many people.

Over several months last summer, family and friends of Mission Doctor Lou Coda started a fundraising campaign for the big machine kind of miracle.

We will let Lou tell you about it: "Traveling down the road from *Kampala back to Mutolere, an 8-hour trip along the northern edge of Lake* (continued on page 3)



January 2018



From the Desk of Elise

As another year begins, we close the door on a year that has presented so many challenges for so many who have been impacted by natural disasters, record breaking storms in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the devastating fires in California.

Yet, each time there is tragedy, we also see the best in human nature as people make sacrifices to be ‘helpers’. I am often reminded of the quote from Mr. Rodgers after 9/11 when he told parents to remind their children to “look for the helpers’ something his own mother had told him.”

It is the same with Mission Doctors. When we hear about the medical needs of our sisters and brothers,

we can become overwhelmed with the need– or we can look to the helpers, the doctors who step aside from their practice at home to care for men, women and children who have such a great need for medical care.

So as 2018 begins, let’s think of ways we can all be helpers. Some of you will join us in serving and others will make that service possible. Please read the story of one very special helper (the mother of Mission Doctor Marcia Smith-Bourain) Jane Smith, whose legacy of compassion has gone on to help, even after her passing.

May 2018 be a year of blessing for each of you and your families.

Elise Frederick
Executive Director

A Legacy of Compassion

Throughout her long life, Jane Smith touched many lives. Today, although it is several years since her passing, Jane continues to make a difference. This time the difference is in the lives of thousands of our sisters and brothers around the world.

A Stanford graduate of the class of ‘43 and an extensive traveler, Jane was a lover of history, bridge, travel, and gardening. She was a brilliant and kind woman, and had a large loving family. Jane’s daughter Marcia and her family introduced Jane to MDA, having served short term in Uganda and Guatemala.

On a visit to her home in Santa Barbara, Jane told our Executive Director Elise Frederick that she wanted to leave a gift to support an organization where it would really make a difference. She decided Mission Doctors Association could be the vehicle to do this, to support the mission of sustainable healthcare around the world.

Mission Doctors has used her gift in part to revamp our recruitment strategies and add a second annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Stritch in Chicago in the fall. Because of her generous gift, Mission Doctors has been able to recruit and send more Catholic Doctors to serve Christ’s poor around the world.

The last gift she gave to MDA will keep providing health for generations to come. Mission Doctors not only provide patient care, but train local professionals, increasing the quality of care wherever they are serving.

Are you considering leaving a legacy of compassion? Please consider including Mission Doctors in your estate plans. To receive personalized information about making a bequest or purchasing a charitable gift annuity, please contact Elise Frederick at 213-368-1875 or at efrederick@missiondoctors.org.



Victoria heading toward the west Rift Valley, I have a long talk with Mr. Mayunga (the hospital administrator) and Erick (the driver) about our concerns. One of Mr. Mayunga's larger worries is the x-ray machine, which has been faithfully serving the thousands of patients at St. Francis Hospital for 30 years, after being used at a Dutch Hospital for the previous 30 years. It is finally dying and replacement parts are no longer available. How to continue providing X-ray-dependent care is a big worry and may require selling the hospital's large supply truck as well as other nearly-impossible measures in order to purchase a new one.

After returning to Mutolere, my wife Martha and I talk about my trip and the conversation. In her next email update to our family and friends, she mentions the X-ray concern among other struggles I face here, not asking for help but just sharing the worries and stories of life in western Uganda.

It wasn't long before we began receiving e-mails from many folks asking how they could help. My sister Barby offered to organize and set up an account online for people to donate. Another sister Rody called Elise (MDA's Executive Director) asking if donations could also be made through MDA, and Elise most graciously agreed, even waiving the administrative costs.

Thank you for being that miracle of caring, of providing for people in need at both St. Francis Hospital and many other locations.

Donations began coming in from friends and family, and soon those donations were multiplied by those from the friends and family OF our friends and family, some of whom we barely knew or had never met. Within a few months there was enough money to buy a new X-ray machine and to repair the building it would be installed in by upgrading the electricity and putting on a new roof.

I can't help but think about starting with a few loaves and fishes and with Christ's help multiplying them enough to feed everyone and have some left over. Thank you for being that miracle of caring, of providing for people in need at both St. Francis Hospital and many other locations.

Thanks to your support of Mission Doctors, Dr. Lou Coda was on the ground in Uganda working closely with our partners at St. Francis Hospital providing the training and support. Together, one Mission Doctor, one medication and one x-ray machine at a time, we are building sustainable healthcare. Thank you for being our partner in this Mission of Hope and Healing.



Old X-Ray Machine



Dr. Lou Coda with Sr. Sister Godfrey, a nurse in Gynecology



"We look forward to coming to the Mission Doctors Gala every year, bringing our friends to share an evening with inspiring people and support the great life giving work!"

Pia and Anselm Varni

"What a great 'Ladies night out!' We have so much fun; find great wines and other special items in the silent auction; have a great meal atop downtown Los Angeles with live music – and all this to support healthcare in places where the need is so great!"

Nicole Gordon, RN



A HEART FOR THE
WORLD
Benefit Gala

Open your hearts to Mission Doctors



Join Us

February 24, 2018

City Club Los Angeles

Upcoming Events

March 9-11, 2018 Spring Retreat/Seminar

Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat/Seminar at Loyola Marymount University. The weekend includes opportunities to hear from veteran Mission Doctors and learn about the various options. Contact our office for more details.

February 2-4 and April 20-22, 2018 Discernment Weekends

Doctors and their spouses interested in long-term (3 year) service with MDA are invited to a Discernment Weekend at our Mission House. The weekend provides an opportunity to meet with the formation team, learn about current service sites, and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Following Christ's call to heal the sick,
Mission Doctors Association
provides lifesaving medical care for the poor
and training for local healthcare professionals
around the world.

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